

IN THE ABSTRACT:

~~There is provided an~~An electronic circuit adapted to process a plurality of types of instruction, the electronic circuit comprising first and second pipeline stages and a latch positioned between the pipeline stages; wherein the electronic circuit is adapted to operate in a normal mode when processing a first type of instruction in which the latch is opened and closed in response to an enable signal, and a reduced mode when processing a second type of instruction in which the latch is held open so that the instruction propagates through the first and second pipeline stages without being stored in the latch; and wherein the first type of instruction requires processing by the first and second pipeline stages and the second type of instruction requires processing by the second pipeline stage.